

# The Gazette of India



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PARLIAMENT SECRETARIAT  
NOTIFICATION

*New Delhi, the 7th October, 1950.*

**F. No. 46-II/50-L.**—The President, in exercise of the power conferred by clause (2) (a) of Article 85 of the Constitution, is pleased to direct that a session of Parliament shall commence at New Delhi on Tuesday, the 14th November, 1950 at 10-45 A.M.

M. N. KAUL, Secy.

MINISTRY OF STATES  
ORDER

*New Delhi, the 7th October, 1950.*

**No. F. 245-P/50.**—By resolution No. 58-P dated 10th March, 1949, the Government of India appointed a Committee consisting of Shri H. V. Divatia, Chief Justice of the Saurashtra High Court and a retired Judge of the Bombay High Court, as President, and Their Highnesses the Maharaja of Jaipur and the Maharao of Kotah, as members, to enquire into, and report on, the rights of the various claimants to the *gaddi* of Sirohi and the validity of the succession of His Highness Maharao Shri Tejsinghji Bahadur, who was recognised as the Maharao of Sirohi by the Crown Representative in May 1946, on the death of His Highness Shri Sarupramsinghji who left no heir male of the body or adopted son. This Committee was set up as the Government of India had received representations from various relations of the late Maharao, from which it appeared that there was a *prima facie* case for a further enquiry into the relative rights of the various claimants.

2. Two claimants appeared before the Committee, namely, Shri Abhaisinghji and Shri Lakhpatramsinghji. After a detailed enquiry in which a mass of documentary evidence was produced and the parties were represented by counsel, the Committee has come to the conclusion that Shri Lakhpatramsinghji had no claim to succeed to the Sirohi *gaddi*.

3. In regard to Shri Abhaisinghji, the Committee has come to the conclusion that he is the nearest heir to the late Maharao. The principal legal point at issue before the Committee of Enquiry was whether the claimant Shri

Abhaisinghji's grandfather, Shri Tejsinghji, a uterine brother of the then Maharao His Highness Shri Umedsinghji, had been validly adopted in 1870 into the family of Shri Zalam Singhji Bajawat after the latter's death in 1866, and had consequently passed out of the Maharao's family for good.

4. The Committee has carefully sifted the evidence placed before it by or on behalf of the claimant, as well as the present minor Maharao. It has also fully discussed the principles of law, custom and usage applicable to such cases in the Sirohi State. Its conclusion is that there was no such valid adoption of Shri Tejsinghji into the Bajawat family as deprived him of his legal status as a member of the ruling family and as a brother of the then Maharao, Shri Umedsinghji. What actually happened in 1870 was only a show of adoption for various political reasons and Shri Tejsinghji did not at any time cease to be a member of his natural family. Since there had been no valid adoption of Shri Tejsinghji into another family, and it is not disputed that the present minor Maharao belongs to a remoter branch of the family, Shri Abhaisinghji should, on the death of the late Maharao Shri Samparsinghji in January 1946, have been recognised as his nearest heir and as being entitled to succeed to the gaddi of Sirohi State.

5. The contention, on the other hand, of the present minor Maharao has been that there was a valid and binding adoption of Shri Tejsinghji at the instance, and with the consent, of the then Maharao and that the necessary consequence in law flowing from that adoption was that he ceased to be a member of the ruling family. This contention has been rejected by the Committee.

6. Having carefully considered the report, the President accepts the findings of the Committee of Enquiry in their entirety. Accordingly, in exercise of the powers vesting in him under article 366(22) of the Constitution, the President is pleased to recognise Shri Abhaisinghji as the Ruler of Sirohi in place of the present minor Maharao Shri Tej-singhji Bahadur, who shall cease to be recognised as such with effect from the date of this Order.

V. P. MENON, Secy.